

Message Text

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67

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00

NSC-05 BIB-01 /089 W

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R 131805Z JUN 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2302

ALL NATO CAPITALS 5349

INFO MOSCOW 2966

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: CONIO - STATE OF WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

STATE FOR EUR AND PA

REF: USNATO 2821

1. INTERESTING DISCUSSION OF STATE OF WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION EMERGED
DURING ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL INFORMATION OFFICIALS
AT NATO HEADQUARTERS JUNE 12 - 13. WE ARE REPORTING IT SINCE,
IN SOME RESPECTS AT LEAST, GENERAL ASSESSMENT DURING MEETING
CONFLICTED WITH PREVAILING "CONVENTIONAL WISDOM" ON BOTH SIDES
OF ATLANTIC.

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2. IN HIS OPENING REMARKS, THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATO INFORMATION STAFF

NOTED THAT POLLING DATA FROM ICELAND, NORWAY, DENMARK, THE FRG
AND THE NETHERLANDS SUGGESTED STRONG CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR THE

CONCEPT OF WESTERN COLLECTIVE SECURITY, IN GENERAL, AND NATO IN PARTICULAR. HE ALSO NOTED WHAT HE CALLED "A SENSE OF SOLIDITY" IN PUBLIC OPINION IN LUXEMBOURG, BELGIUM, UK AND ITALY, AND THE EXPLICIT REAFFIRMATION OF COMMITMENTS BY PRESIDENT FORD AND PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU AT THE RECENT SUMMIT.

3. ENSUEING COMMENTS BY NATIONAL REPS CONFIRMED THIS BASIC TREND IN EACH MAJOR NATO COUNTRY. GENERAL SENSE OF MEETING WAS THAT WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION, WHICH SEEMED AT LOOSE ENDS DURING EARLY 1970'S, HAD TAKEN SIGNIFICANT TURN FOR BETTER IN RECENT MONTHS, A TURN ENCOURAGED BY THE RECENT NATO SUMMIT. COMMENTS FROM POSTS IN NATO CAPITALS WOULD BE WELCOME. (PLEASE REPORT DEPT. FOR EUR AND PA).

4. US REP NOTED THAT, WHILE EUROPEAN ATTENTION TO LOUIS HARRIS POLL CONDUCTED FOR CHICAGO COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS HAD FOCUSED ON FACT THAT ONLY 39 PER CENT OF AMERICAN PUBLIC APPEARED DISPOSED TO USE AMERICAN TROOPS IN DEFENSE OF WESTERN EUROPE, OTHER RESULTS FROM SAME POLL WERE WORTH NOTING:

(A) SEVENTY-ONE PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS CONSIDERED THAT COMMUNIST TAKEOVER OF WEST EUROPE WOULD POSE THREAT TO AMERICAN SECURITY.

(B) SIXTY PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS FAVERED EXPANDING OR MAINTAINING PRESENT LEVEL US DEFENSE EXPENDITURES.

(C) SIXTY-NINE PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS DID NOT WISH US TO BE MILITARILY INFERIOR TO USSR. US REP ALSO NOTED THAT RESULTS OF HARRIS POLL CONDUCTED IN MAY AND TO BE RELEASED WEEK OF JUNE 16 SUGGESTED GREATER WILLINGNESS ON PART OF AMERICANS TO DEPLOY TROOPS ABROAD. HE STATED US WOULD MAKE RESULTS OF THIS POLL AVAILABLE TO NATO.
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